Charter

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)

A. Official Designation: The Committee shall be known as the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

B. Objectives and Scope of Activities: The Committee shall provide the Secretary of Defense, through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy), (ASD (FMP)), with advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to women in the Armed Forces. The Committee shall be composed of 25-40 civilian members, selected on the basis of equitable distribution of points of view, fields of interest, and geographical representation. Members must be US citizens selected without regard to race, creed, gender, national origin, age, marital status or physically challenging conditions. Members are appointed by the Secretary of Defense, and shall serve as individuals and not as official representatives of any group or organization with which they may be affiliated. Term of membership is 3 years, with approximately one-third of the membership rotating annually. The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation, but may be allowed transportation and per diem for DACOWITS conferences and meetings.

C. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee to Carry Out Its Purposes: Indefinite.

D. Official to Whom the Committee Reports: The Committee reports to the ASD (FMP), with functional responsibilities under the staff cognizance of the Executive Director for DACOWITS and Women's Military Matters. The ASD (FMP) shall designate a Federal Government officer (normally the Executive Director) to approve or call each meeting, to approve the agenda, and to attend each conference or meeting of the Committee. The officer so designated shall have the authority to adjourn any conference or meeting of the Committee which is not considered to be in the public interest.

E. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support: The ASD (FMP) provides such personnel, facilities, and other administrative support necessary for the performance of the Committee's functions. In carrying out the functions stated herein, the Committee may obtain information in accordance with the provisions of DOD Directive 8910.1, "Management and Control of Information Requirements," and assistance through the DACOWITS office from DOD components and from the Coast Guard (by agreement with the Department of Transportation), as appropriate.

F. Duties: The duties of the Committee include assisting the Secretary of Defense by advising on the full range of matters relating to women in the Services. In carrying out its duties, the Committee serves as a vital link between the civilian community and the Department of Defense regarding the need for and role of women as an integral part of the Armed Forces. Through its work, the Committee encourages public acceptance of military service as a citizenship responsibility and as a career field for qualified women in the Services.

G. Annual Operating Costs and Person-Years: It is estimated that the annual operating costs to support the Committee will be $683,039, which includes staff support years, conferences and meetings, per diem and travel costs; and the annual person-years of Federal staff support for the Committee will be 7.0.

H. Number and Frequency of Committee Conferences: A minimum of two formal conferences shall be held annually, and the presence of a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

I. Termination Date: The Committee shall terminate upon the completion of its mission or 2 years from the date this Charter is filed with the US Congress.

J. Filing Date: 28 FEB 1996